

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LINDA MARTIN

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Linda Martin, a finalist for the 2014 School Counselor of the Year award. This distinguished award, presented by the American School Counselor Association, honors school counselors "who have made outstanding and exemplary contributions to students, the school community, and the school counseling profession."

Mrs. Martin has led the Comprehensive Guidance Program at Palm Lake Elementary School for 20 years. As an innovative teacher, she founded the Kids Who Care program to serve Palm Lake Elementary, the Orlando community and Nkomo Primary School, a sister school in South Africa. Her classroom lessons cover a wide range of topics including character development and leadership.

Mrs. Martin's remarkable service has also been recognized on the county and state levels. In 2012, she was named Orange County School Counselor of the Year, and, in 2013, was awarded Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Florida School Counselor Association.

School counselors play an invaluable role in students' academic and personal development, teaching important life skills and compelling them to strive toward their goals. It is my pleasure to recognize Mrs. Martin for her exemplary dedication to the students of Palm Lake Elementary.

RECOGNIZING WTOC OF SAVANNAH'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize WTOC-TV of Savannah, which celebrates its 60th anniversary on February 14, 2014. WTOC provides our community with up-to-the-minute, accurate news.

WTOC, or Welcome To Our City, went on the air on February 14, 1954, making it the first television station in Savannah. WTOC began as a radio station, WTOC-AM 1290, in October of 1929 and added an FM station in 1946. As WTOC-FM was a CBS Radio affiliate, WTOC-TV affiliated with CBS as well and has been with the network ever since.

WTOC has been a leader in Savannah area news, topping the Nielson ratings almost every year since its inception. The station won both an Emmy and an Edward R. Murrow award in 2003. Many of its individual reporters have earned major awards for their stories and editing, including an Emmy for a 2006 story about 3rd Infantry Division fighters in Iraq. WTOC

lives up to its slogan as "The Southeast News Leader."

From hard-hitting local news to Emmy-winning sports coverage, WTOC-TV has set the standard for local news in Savannah for the past 60 years. I am proud to support WTOC-TV while they celebrate this milestone in their history. My thoughts are with them during this special time.

COMMENDING THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT'S STEPS TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán for the actions his government is taking to combat anti-Semitism. Under his leadership, Hungary has stressed a "zero tolerance policy" toward anti-Semitic attitudes, and has focused on law enforcement and legal measures, Holocaust education and remembrance, and support for Jewish cultural renaissance in Hungary.

Measures implemented by Prime Minister Orbán and his government, including the 50 percent pension increase to Holocaust survivors and the agreement on compensation of Holocaust survivors living in foreign countries, are only two of the numerous actions Hungarians are taking to ensure that those who have suffered have a dignified retirement.

We must never forget the terrible atrocities that occurred during the Holocaust. I want to remind my colleagues that steps can be taken to aid the painful memories and create awareness of these past events. Prime Minister Orbán is taking a leading role in the battle against anti-Semitic voices in Europe and throughout the world. Later this year, Hungary will inaugurate a memorial site to commemorate the child victims of the Holocaust. In addition, Hungary is investing resources to include Holocaust Remembrance Day in public schools and is recognizing the people who helped save Jewish lives during that time period.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in standing in solidarity with those that have been oppressed and to continue to shine light on this dark history to ensure that it doesn't happen again. I am honored to pay tribute to Prime Minister Orbán and his government for their continued service to the people of Hungary on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these remarkable efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON ONE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation and deep respect that I rise today to recognize the contributions of the United States Navy Airborne Early Warning Squadron One, designated VW-1. For their courage while facing danger head on and their willingness to defend our nation's military, these brave individuals are to be commended.

In 1944, recognizing the need for early warning radar and aircraft to assist in protecting the United States Naval Fleet from attack by identifying ships and low flying aircraft, the United States Navy launched its first program to help minimize the impact on service members and operations. The initial program would evolve, and in June 1952, led to the establishment of Airborne Early Warning Squadron One, designated VW-1, first located at Naval Air Station Barbers Point, in the then Territory of Hawaii. Soon after, a permanent detachment of VW-1 was established in the Western Pacific, where it provided heavy airborne early warning coverage and participated in the Korean War. Following its relocation to the Naval Air Station Agana, Guam, Mariana Islands, in 1957, VW-1 began to take on additional responsibilities, and in 1961, was tasked with weather reconnaissance. This increased focus on identifying hazardous weather conditions included the addition of six meteorologists and eighteen aerographers, as well as new technological equipment. During 1961 alone, VW-1 flew more than 1,000 hours of weather reconnaissance, thus identifying the squadron as the "Typhoon Trackers."

Through their valiant efforts, VW-1 provided airborne early warning support and protection for the U.S. Seventh Fleet during the Vietnam War, from 1964 through 1971. Their mission was to fly north of the DMZ in the Gulf of Tonkin, providing airborne protection for the Seventh Fleet, which was operating below the DMZ. They were tasked with warning the Seventh Fleet against enemy attacks and dangerous storms, in addition to providing radar surveillance for air strikes over North Vietnam. From 1964 through 1967, VW-1 operated out of bases in the Republic of the Philippines for an extended airborne mission time of eighteen hours. Often times these missions were extended beyond the aircraft's fuel range, requiring them to refuel at Da Nang Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam before returning to their base in the Philippines. In late 1967, a detachment was established at Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam but later moved to Da Nang Air Base in an effort to shorten the mission time to twelve hours.

From its establishment in June 1952 until July 1971, when the unit was absorbed into

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

VQ-1, VW-1 completed its mission with an astonishing nineteen years of accident-free flight, totaling more than 160,000 flight hours. For its efforts, VW-1 was twice awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation. Individual aircrew members have received more than 1,200 Air Medals, and the unit also includes two Purple Heart recipients, whose injuries were sustained in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the brave men of Airborne Early Warning Squadron One, designated VW-1. The squadron represented an important part of the United States Military, and its gallant members are a true example of unwavering patriotism. Let us never forget their service and the sacrifices they made in defense of our nation and their fellow service members.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND COMMITMENT OF VERNA MACDONALD TO THE WESTPORT COMMUNITY AND GRAYS HARBOR REGION

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding community service of Verna MacDonald, who has dedicated herself to enriching her fellow citizens through her affiliations with the Westport Senior House, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3057, the American Legion Post #140 Lady Auxiliary, the Westport and Grayland area Volunteer Fire Departments, and the Coastal Harvest food distribution warehouse.

Verna MacDonald first moved to Westport with her husband Donald MacDonald in 1986. The unexpected passing of her husband in 1999 inspired her to get out and interact with her community. She has since been recognized as the "Grandma" of the city of Westport. It is difficult to find a person within the community that has not heard of the service Ms. MacDonald has provided. Her positive disposition and can-do attitude is well known.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. MacDonald has displayed a constant commitment to serving those in need through her varied volunteer activities. One of her most notable contributions to the Westport community has been her engagement with the Westport Senior House. Starting as secretary, Ms. MacDonald dedicated years to improving the building and providing meals and resources to its residents. One of her many accomplishments was securing a grant to fund a new handicapped access ramp named for her late husband. Later, as director, she worked to transform the Senior House into a certified Red Cross Emergency Shelter, equipped with cots, bedding, emergency food supplies and even a generator. Ms. MacDonald didn't stop there; she spearheaded the Westport Freedom Walk in 2006 to honor the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack, has organized a holiday gift donation program serving the senior citizens in Grays Harbor and northern Pacific counties, and volunteers at Coastal Harvest Food Bank. Ms. MacDonald's work is boundless, and her retirement does not appear to have decreased her commitment to serving those in need.

As I close, I say with pride that our region is a better place thanks to the dedicated and selfless service of Verna MacDonald. Her unprecedented community involvement will impact the Westport community for years to come. I am pleased to recognize this service today in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF COLORED CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate Black History Month and recognize the 150th anniversary of the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States in Syracuse, New York.

On September 9, 1864, the anti-slavery newspaper *The Liberator* included a call for the convention. Frederick Douglass, a writer, statesman and leader of the Abolition Movement, annotated an "Address to the People of the United States." In his address to the people, Frederick Douglass explains, "No notice should be taken of the color of men; but justice, wisdom, and humanity should weigh alone, and be all-controlling."

The National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States convened on October 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th of 1864 in Syracuse, New York.

In October of 1864, Frederick Douglass came to Syracuse to discuss the state of the ex-slave following the Civil War. Douglass served as convention president, which drew nearly 150 delegates from all across the nation. During the meeting, the delegates crafted a document modeled after the Declaration of Independence, entitled "Declarations of Rights and Wrongs", which was read during the Convention in Syracuse.

Central New York has a rich connection in history to the Abolition Movement. From Harriet Tubman and her tireless devotion to the cause, to Frederick Douglass with his Address to the People of the United States and "Declaration of Rights and Wrongs," Central New York and the City of Syracuse have continued to lead the charge for equality.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the 150th anniversary of the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States in Syracuse, New York. Let us never grow old or weary of the struggle that our predecessors led, and let us work every day to uphold the values that Frederick Douglass and so many others demanded us to do at the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States.

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY EMERGENCY WATER DELIVERY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3964) to address certain water-related concerns in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3964, a bill that undermines long-standing local, state, and Federal agreements on the California water supply and creates a dangerous precedent for similar Congressional overreach in other states.

As the Governor of California said, this bill "falsely suggests the promise of water relief when that is simply not possible given the scarcity of water supplies." Instead, it picks winners and losers, prioritizing some interests above others and disrupting years of collaboration to balance water needs.

The President has directed his Administration to work with California and local jurisdictions to provide information, flexibility in federal law, and emergency grant assistance to respond to the drought. Congress should not act unilaterally to preempt the efforts the State has already undertaken to respond to this disaster.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,258,482,479,004.37. We've added \$6,631,605,430,091.29 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE RUSSELL HOUSE FOR ITS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Russell House for its 20 years of service to South Central Missouri. Since its founding in 1994, the Russell House has provided a safe haven for victims of domestic violence. In addition to shelter, the Russell House provides a wide range of free services to both residents and non-resident families as they transition to a life free of abuse. The Russell House also educates the community on preventing violence and intervention.

During the first years of service, the house could only shelter seven victims but thanks to the continued support of the Phelps County Family Crisis Services organization the Russell House now has the capacity to provide shelter for 64 people at any given time. Over the past 20 years of service to the community the Russell House has sheltered more than 2,000 adults and 1,800 children. I applaud the hard working staff and supporters of the Russell House for their hearts of service and dedication to the families of Missouri. It is my pleasure to recognize their efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

IN TRIBUTE TO DR. NICHOLAS J.
CONTORNO

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a published composer, arranger, educator, guest conductor, saxophone soloist and composer in residence. He was a highly successful and visible educator at all levels of school bands both as a conductor and clinician. On February 2, 2014 Dr. Nicholas J. Contorno passed away leaving his wife Lucille, two daughters, Camille and Gina, and a host of family and friends to remember his many accomplishments.

Dr. Nicholas J. Contorno retired in 2007 after 24 years as the Director of Bands and Orchestra at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He received his undergraduate and master's degrees in music education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was granted a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Composition from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He began his teaching career in 1961 as an Instrumental Music teacher in the Glendale (WI) Public Schools and also served as Director of Bands at Dominican High School in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. He served as Music Curriculum Supervisor and Director of Bands at Kettle Moraine High School in Wales, Wisconsin. Dr. Contorno's work with young musicians made him one of the most beloved composers for concert and jazz bands.

Dr. Contorno was an A.S.C.A.P. award winning composer and arranger. He is listed in "Leaders of Secondary Education" (1972), "World's Who's Who of Musicians" (1977), and "Encyclopedia of Band Composers" (1991). As an active professional musician, he performed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Holiday on Ice Orchestra, Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus Band, Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, and Les Elgart Orchestra. In addition, he performed with many national shows and artists, including "Annie," 42nd Street, Linda Ronstadt, Natalie Cole, Manhattan Transfer, Vic Damone, Johnny Mathis, Mel Torme, and Sonny & Cher, to mention a few. His many honors include the Hugo Anhalt Music Achievement Award (1973); National Band Association Outstanding Jazz Educator Award (1982); and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Music Alumni Achievement Award (1990).

Dr. Contorno also held memberships in numerous professional organizations, such as

the American Federation of Musicians—Local 8, ASBDA, the National Band Association, and the Wisconsin Bandmasters Association. He served on the board of directors of the Festival City Orchestra of Milwaukee and the Waukesha Symphony Orchestra. He was the musical coordinator of Festa Italiana-Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1982 to 1998, served as the Musical Director/Conductor of the First Brigade Civil War Band of Wisconsin from 1970–1982 and The Milwaukee Concert Band from 1996–2002. In addition, he served as guest conductor of the Goldman Band of New York and the "President's Own" United States Marine Band. Dr. Contorno has a music school named after him in Gonaïves, Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to a tribute to Dr. Nicholas J. Contorno. Dr. Contorno's contributions have greatly benefitted the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the global community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MIKE
BREWER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mike Brewer, who passed away at Hospice House in Sumterville, Florida, on January 4, 2014. Mr. Brewer was born on August 8, 1953, in Chicago, Illinois to Stanley and Patricia Brewer. He married his wife, Mary Eaton Brewer, on March 22, 2003 in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Brewer, aged 60, was a devoted husband and a tradesman whose presence in the community will be deeply missed.

Mr. Brewer worked for the Building Trades in Orlando, Florida. He previously served as Business Agent for the Carpenters Local 1765 before helping to form the Carpenters Local 1820 in 1985. In the same year, he was elected Chairman of the Walt Disney World (WDW) Craft Maintenance Council, a position he would hold for twelve years. From 1987 until 2007, Mr. Brewer served as Executive Secretary and Treasurer for the Florida Council of Industrial and Public Employees. In 2008 he became a member of the Florida Council of Carpenters' Office of President. Most recently, Mr. Brewer was appointed to serve as the administrator of the AFL-CIO's collective bargaining proceedings with the Walt Disney Company.

Mr. Brewer devoted his career to his fellow tradesman and made it his life's work to better the lives of workers. He is survived by his wife Mary; daughter Sarah; stepson Robert Phan; his mother Patricia Brewer; his brother Tommy Brewer; and his sisters Janis Murphy, Susan Bane, and Debbie Cozart.

I am saddened by the loss of this valuable member of the Central Florida community and extend my heartfelt condolences to his family.

HONORING RHONDA WHITE-
WARNER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Minister Rhonda White-Warner, a former minister and a social activist. Known throughout the Bay Area as a scholar, teacher, activist, preacher, and as a dedicated mother and grandmother, Minister White-Warner has left an indelible mark on our community. With her passing on January 15, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of her life's work and the inspiring role she played in many lives through her community activism and as a spiritual leader.

Born and raised in Oakland, Minister Rhonda White-Warner's passion for helping people began at a young age. After graduating from Oakland Technical High School in 1969, she received her Masters of Divinity from the American Baptist Seminary of the West, graduating with the highest GPA in her class and advancing to candidacy for a Doctor of Ministry degree at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. Minister White-Warner graduated with honors and received the Jessie Drexler Award for outstanding competency in Biblical Studies.

Minister Rhonda White-Warner had a profound sense of dedication to helping the people in her community. As HIV/AIDS began to take its toll on the community, she knew it was important for faith based groups to step up and take action. She helped to establish the East Bay HIV Faith Collaborative. This collaborative is comprised of a group of HIV/AIDS advocates who educate and provide tools to African American Faith leaders. Aside from managing programs for HIV/AIDS, Minister White-Warner also worked to address domestic violence and mental health services.

Minister White-Warner also appreciated and promoted the arts. During the 1990s, she published a monthly magazine called Tibbets. This publication served to promote African American arts. Later, she became a founding member of the Oakland Ensemble Theatre in 1993, which established itself as the sole professional theater company in Oakland.

Minister Rhonda White-Warner has left a lasting imprint on our society and communities of faith. She was a charter member of the Womanist Symposium Project at the Graduate Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California. This project engages womanist theology within the context of Black women in the local church setting. Their mission is to energize African American women to live positively and productively, as well as to empower and liberate African American women in the context of biblical scripture.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and social activist, Minister Rhonda White-Warner. As an Oakland-native, Minister White-Warner's efforts have truly paved the way for minorities and impacted so many lives throughout the nation. I join all of Rhonda's loved ones in celebrating her incredible life. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE PORTOPERA ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate PORTopera on its 20th anniversary season.

Since 1994, PORTopera has been the only company in the State of Maine performing fully staged operas with nationally and internationally acclaimed artists. It has provided unduplicated opportunities to enjoy creative, inspiring opera that showcases excellence and brings the brightest stars and musical professionals to Maine.

PORTopera has generated critical acclaim from national publications, including its 2012 production of *Madama Butterfly* by Opera News and 2001's *Le Nozze di Figaro* by the Boston Globe. PORTopera has also been involved in educating upcoming generations who dream of performing in the theater through the opera-in-schools program with the University of Southern Maine and the Young Artists Program.

I am proud of PORTopera's commitment to developing and expanding the arts in Maine on many levels. The company has enriched Portland and the State of Maine culturally and has maintained a reputation for creativity, sophistication, and artistic excellence for two decades. Its work is critical to the quality of life we enjoy in our State.

As Maine's creative culture continues to develop and receive national attention, I am proud to recognize PORTopera for its leadership and success.

Bravo!

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. TROY BOWLING

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual, Mr. Troy Bowling of Lexington, Kentucky. His military service during World War II and his continued commitment to supporting our veterans and the men and women in uniform is an inspiration to us all.

At age 19, Mr. Bowling began his service as a United States Marine and was a proud member of the Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Division. During the United States' campaign to end the war against Japan, Mr. Bowling's unit was among the first to arrive on the beachheads of Iwo Jima. While attempting to secure Mt. Suribachi, his unit came under intense and concentrated fire, completely overwhelming his unit. Two projectiles struck Mr. Bowling in the chest and leg, leaving him critically wounded on the battlefield. At that moment, Mr. Bowling said he looked to the heavens and committed to serving mankind for the rest of his life if he survived.

Miraculously, a combat photographer and medical team then carried Mr. Bowling to the safety of a landing craft where he witnessed

the planting of the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi—an iconic image that persists as one of the most legendary and triumphant moments of the war. The U.S. Marines eventually took control of the island; however, this victory came at a heavy cost as over 6,800 U.S. servicemembers gave their lives during the battle of Iwo Jima.

In keeping faith with his commitment to God made during that battle, Mr. Bowling has since devoted over 73,000 hours of volunteer service to others at the Lexington VA Medical Center. For over 63 years, Mr. Bowling has risen through the ranks within the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization, holding nearly every position possible including State Commander.

The Bible teaches in Proverbs 21:21 that, "He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor." Mr. Bowling has brought great honor upon himself through his dedication, determination, and love for serving the people of our community. Without a doubt, he has remained true to the commitment he made on the rocky terrain of Iwo Jima.

Mr. Bowling embodies the best of America's ideals, values, and commitment to serving others—never abandoning the Marine motto of *Semper Fidelis*, "Always Faithful." I would like to thank Mr. Bowling for his many years of service to our Nation and our community. He is truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, due to a technical error on rollcall 38, my vote was inaccurately recorded as "yea." I have always been a vocal and firm supporter of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) waivers, which save taxpayer dollars and decrease red tape by allowing federal agencies to approve the use of federal public land for recreational fishing, hunting, and shooting without needless process and paperwork that has no benefit to wildlife or wildlife habitat.

I would like to state that my intended vote was "nay" for rollcall 38—On Agreeing to Amendment No. 6 by DEFAZIO of Oregon.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" SINKIN

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late William "Bill" Sinkin, a truly remarkable citizen of San Antonio. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Sinkin dedicated himself to improving and serving the city of San Antonio.

For almost 70 years, Mr. Sinkin dedicated his life to civic accomplishments and advocating for all citizens of San Antonio. He had a true passion for people, diversity, and innovation. Mr. Sinkin helped put San Antonio on the map as a tourist destination with his lead-

ership role in creating HemisFair, a celebration of San Antonio's 250th anniversary and the first world fair to be held in Texas. Mr. Sinkin had a first-hand role in the redevelopment of HemisFair Park which eventually led to the Institute of Texan cultures, the Convention Center, and the River Walk.

Mr. Sinkin was a groundbreaking chairman of the San Antonio Housing Authority where he added 2,500 new housing units to the city, promoted diversity and hired the organization's first female executive director. He co-founded the Goodwill Industries of San Antonio in 1946, and provided employment opportunities for those affected with mental and physical disabilities and founded the Urban Coalition of San Antonio to address issues affecting low income communities.

Mr. Sinkin was a civic leader and active voice for the community throughout his entire life. As a banker, he advocated for racial equality, minority hiring, and business development by increasing minority representation and small business lending. In the way he lived his life, in the relationships he cultivated, and in the community groups he belonged to and nurtured, Mr. Sinkin fostered greater understanding between people from different cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Enduring relationships were created in the Jewish-Latino and Black-Jewish Dialogues which he was instrumental in starting.

As a pioneer and avid supporter of alternative energy, Mr. Sinkin worked to raise awareness about solar power. He founded Solar San Antonio in 1999, which promotes the use of solar electricity as a major source of power and launched Metropolitan Partnership for Energy which became Build San Antonio Green. Mr. Sinkin's efforts in alternative energy led to San Antonio being designated as a Solar America City.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late Bill Sinkin. His extensive record of service and achievement has truly impacted many lives and our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAN B. KIMBALL AS SUPERINTENDENT OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today in order to celebrate the service and accomplishments of Mr. Dan B. Kimball, Superintendent of Everglades National Parks. After 10 years, Dan will be retiring in March 2014.

During his tenure as superintendent, Dan consistently demonstrated his expertise and unwavering commitment to the preservation of our national parks. Upon his arrival in 2004, he was entrusted with managing the park's involvement in the restoration of the Everglades, the largest ecosystem restoration project in the world. He and his team faced complex challenges with skill and resolve, making invaluable contributions to the ongoing defense of the Everglades and to the balance of Florida's ecosystem.

A 20-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), Dan also served as the Chief

of National Park Service Water Resources Division. He was instrumental in the successful settlement of park water rights issues in the western United States, and in the continued protection of Yellowstone National Park. In addition, he has held positions at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Surface Mining (OSM), as well as in various environmental consulting firms. His accomplishments have earned him a number of awards, including the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOT) Superior Service Award (1989), the Stephen Tyng Mather Award for resource conservation given by the National Parks Conservation Association (1995), and the Pacific Northwest Regional Directors Award for Professional Excellence in Natural Resources (2002).

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased that I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Dan Kimball. I want to offer my sincerest congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to him for all that he has done for the state of Florida and this nation. I wish him the very best on his retirement, and much success in his future pursuits.

CELEBRATING BERNITA PEEPLES

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Bernita Peeples, the newest honoree of the Yellow Rose of Texas Award for her tremendous legacy as a Texas woman of outstanding volunteer and public service. A pillar of the Belton, TX community, Bernita's life and career is a reflection of hard work, activism, and dedication to bringing news to central Texas.

Lucky enough to know what she wanted her life's work to be since she was a young lady, Bernita started her career as a reporter for The Belton Journal during her senior year of high school. In an age when the average worker stays on the job for just over four years, Bernita has been faithfully reporting to her desk for 80 years! While chronicling stories big and small, as well as producing regular and popular columns, she's seen The Belton Journal's circulation climb tenfold.

The unofficial historian of Belton, Bernita's truly seen it all. A career that began on a 1927 Royal typewriter witnessed the rise of personal computers, the Internet, and social media to transmit the news. While reporting on 13 presidential administrations, WWII, and nearly a century of American advancement and innovation, she's kept her ear to the ground in Belton, never forgetting the community she calls home.

Bernita took breaks from writing and even retired once. But like all who have a calling, she couldn't stay away from her profession and soon returned to journalism. She still has a desk at The Belton Journal office where she writes one feature per week. Even better, she still has the typewriter with which she started her career.

Bernita's work doesn't stop when the paper has gone to the printers. She's involved in many organizations, including the Bell County Historical Commission and 1874 Church Restoration, for which she posed on a motorcycle for a 2010 calendar. She didn't miss a meet-

ing of the Belton Rotary Club for 19 years and she was the first woman to receive the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen award.

The people of Belton and central Texas are lucky to have Bernita Peeples. She's a local treasure and a fitting recipient of the Yellow Rose of Texas Award. I join all who celebrate her enormous contributions to journalism and her beloved community.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR 60TH ANNUAL TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show—the largest gem and mineral exhibition in the United States and an event that has set the standard for such shows around the world.

The show, which will be held this year from Feb. 13–16, has been hosted for the past six decades by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Inc. The show began as a club show and today is dedicated to presenting extraordinary mineral, gem, fossil, lapidary and jewelry exhibits that provide a rare window into private and museum collections from around the world.

The theme of this year's show is “60 years of Diamonds, Gems, Silver and Gold” and will feature a display of diamonds from the Smithsonian Institution.

As a result of interest generated by this long-running show, dozens of satellite shows have proliferated throughout the Tucson area—bringing with them gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites and other items from around the world. This weeks-long collection of events has become known as the Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase and attracts thousands of participants, enthusiasts and buyers from across the globe.

During the showcase, Tucsonans and visitors find everything from rare diamonds to boxes made of petrified wood. There are dinosaur skeletons, loose stones, jewelry, African art, beads, polished stones, minerals and gifts of every description.

None of this would have happened without the vision and the hard work by members and volunteers of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Inc., which remains dedicated to promoting the study of earth sciences. I am proud to recognize the organization and its members including President Diane Braswell and Vice President John Callahan. Its other officers are Marilyn Reynolds, Ellen Alexander, Alrene Hibben, Madison Barkley, Mark Marikos, Bob O'Donnell, Mark Ascher and Robert and Elaine Royer. The chairman of this year's show is Paul Harter.

I am proud to recognize the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Inc. on the occasion of its 60th Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

IN MEMORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY ICON GUY PORTER GILLETTE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Western Music Icon Guy Porter Gillette who is being honored this weekend in Houston County.

Guy left us on September 2nd, but his memory is alive and well. Guy was the son of famed photographer Guy and his wife Doris Gillette. He and his brother, Pipp, co-owned the Camp St. Café & Store where they enjoyed entertaining southeast Texas.

The brothers were raised in Yonkers, New York, but spent their summers at their grandparents' Lovelady ranch. Back in their teens, the brothers had a band called the Roadrunners. Their lead singer was a young woman named Diane Keaton, who later became a movie star. Guy met Diane while studying at The Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theatre in Manhattan, NY and the brothers were known for playing coffee houses in many states, but Texas kept a piece of their hearts.

They inherited their grandparents' Lovelady ranch and shortly after Guy's return to Texas he met Cathi Stas from Wheeler. They married and welcomed daughter, Dorcie in 1995. After fixing up their family homestead, Camp Street in Crockett was their next project. They turned a pool hall and barbershop their grandfather built into a new music venue where they could entertain us with a unique mix of blues, cowboy ballads and Celtic folk songs. One never knew what was on the bill at Camp Street. It could be comedy one minute and vaudeville the next—and audiences loved it.

The awards stacked up for the Gillette Brothers: the Western Heritage Award for Best Traditional Western CD of 2010; two Cowboy Culture Awards; the Wrangler Award for Best Original Composition of 2012 for the song “Tradeoff”; as well as awards for their chuck wagon sourdough biscuits.

While cancer may have silenced Guy's tenor voice just two weeks after his father's passing, Cathi, Dorcie and Pipp have wonderful memories of music, laughter, and love to cherish.

Guy was a bright star that gave so much to Houston County, Texas. He will be missed. God bless Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WORK OF DR. AMPARO VILLABLANCA AND THE 20TH YEAR OF THE WOMEN'S CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE PROGRAM

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the work of Dr. Amparo Villablanca, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of California, Davis, and to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr.

Villablanca, who has devoted her career in medicine to identifying and building awareness of the cardiovascular disease risk factors for women.

In 1994, Dr. Villablanca established the nation's first program dedicated to researching, preventing and treating heart disease in women. Heart disease is the leading cause of death of women in the United States, causing one in three deaths each year, more than all forms of cancer combined. Dr. Villablanca has conducted laboratory research that has advanced scientific knowledge of the unique biological causes and indicators of heart disease in women.

Dr. Villablanca has actively engaged with grassroots organizations in conducting community-based research to identify and mitigate heart disease risk factors among populations most at risk, including African American and Hispanic women. Her tireless advocacy for women's heart health earned her a place on the Woman's Day magazine Heart Health Advisory Board and the magazine's inaugural Red Dress Award.

Furthermore, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program at the University of California, Davis, which recognizes the importance of research and patient-care programs to identify the risk factors and preventions for heart disease among women. As part of the program, Dr. Villablanca has hosted the annual Women's Heart Care Education and Awareness Forum since 2006 to encourage community champions for women's health and expand appreciation for lifestyles and health behaviors that benefit cardiovascular health. In 2010, Dr. Villablanca forged an innovative partnership with the UC Davis Department of Design to create and display a collection of student-designed red dresses and ensure heart-health messages reach a younger generation of women. The Forum embraces the link between health and art that the UC Davis Red Dress Collection represents and its role in engaging young women in understanding the importance of paying attention to their heart health.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the ongoing work of Dr. Amparo Villablanca and the UC Davis Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program in providing a woman-centered, culturally sensitive and respectful approach to patient care.

HONORING MORRIS TURNER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Morris "Morrie" Turner, former cartoonist for the Oakland Tribune. Known throughout the Bay Area and the Nation by his cartoon strip "Wee Pals," Mr. Turner has left an indelible mark on our national discourse. With his passing on January 25, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of his life's work and the inspiring role he played in breaking racial barriers as the first nationally syndicated African American cartoonist.

Born on December 11, 1923 Morrie Turner was born and raised in Oakland. His passion

for drawing began as a young child. After graduating from Berkeley High School, Mr. Turner served in World War II as a mechanic for the Tuskegee Airmen. During this time, he drew comic strips for military newspapers. Once returning back to the Bay Area, he worked as a clerk for the Oakland Police Department while freelancing cartoons to newspapers and magazines. In 1964, Mr. Turner's drive and admiration for cartooning inspired him to create cartoons full time.

During the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Morrie Turner realized that African American kids rarely appeared in cartoons. Inspired by Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" cartoon, Mr. Turner began creating a comic strip featuring kids from all backgrounds called "Wee Pals." In the beginning, only a few papers would run the strip. After the tragic event of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination in 1968, "Wee Pals" achieved national recognition, appearing in more than 100 newspapers.

Morrie Turner's "Wee Pals" covered issues of racism, sexism and bullying. His hope was "to portray a world without prejudice, a world in which people's differences—race, religion, gender and physical and mental ability—are cherished not scorned." There was a wide range of characters, encompassing many different ethnicities. The success of the comic strip inspired an animated television show called "Kid Power." As he continued to produce comic strips, Mr. Turner wrote and illustrated children's books.

Renowned for his cartoons and children's books, Mr. Turner received numerous awards. Among the many prestigious awards, he received the Sparky Award from San Francisco's Cartoon Art Museum, the Anti-Defamation League's humanitarian award, the Boys and Girls Club Image Award and the California Educators Award. During the Vietnam War, Mr. Turner had the honor as one of six cartoonists with the National Cartoonist Society to travel to Vietnam and draw more than 3,000 caricatures of the service people on the frontlines and in hospitals.

Morrie Turner left an imprint on many generations by addressing these important topics still facing our Nation. He found a creative way to educate children and reach out to approximately 25 million readers with his "Wee Pals" cartoon. In addition, he was actively involved in educational programs and charities in the Bay Area.

On several occasions I was humbled to be one of Morrie's caricatures in his very creative, educational and funny cartoons. When I met him, I knew I was in the presence of not only a brilliant intellect but a soaring spirit. It was an honor and a privilege to have been in his presence on many occasions.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and cartoonist, Morris Turner. As an Oakland native, Mr. Turner's efforts have truly paved the way for minorities and impacted so many lives throughout the Nation. I join all of Morrie's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN COLACCHIO

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of the Central Florida community, John Colacchio. Mr. Colacchio is an 89-year-old veteran of the Second World War who recently participated in an Honor Flight. The Honor Flight, comprised of 50 World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans, was a one-day event in which these veterans flew from Florida to Washington, D.C. and visited the memorials to their fallen comrades. A native of Long Island, New York, Mr. Colacchio was drafted at the age of 18 after graduating from high school. He bravely fought with the Army's 2nd Infantry Division in historic battles including the Invasion of Normandy. Mr. Colacchio served with distinction for two years and nine months. He earned the rank of Staff Sergeant and was awarded a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

After his service, Mr. Colacchio returned to work at the Long Island Railroad, where he worked for another 34 years. In 2008, after the passing of his beloved wife, Laura, Mr. Colacchio moved to be near his only child, in Celebration, Florida. His daughter, Barbara, is a Marine Corps veteran and served as Honor Guardian on his recent Honor Flight. On Veterans Day 2013, his daughter and friends dedicated a memorial brick in his name at the Veterans Memorial Park in Celebration.

Mr. Colacchio sacrificed greatly to help our country in a time of need. He served with dedication and bravery and has remained active in the veteran community. It is my pleasure to recognize his accomplishments and contributions to the community.

HONORING KEIFER MARSHALL, JR

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keifer Marshall, Jr., recipient of the Drayton and Elizabeth McClain Community Achievement Award for individuals who truly exemplify public service leadership. Marshall's life of sacrifice and activism reflects the very best values of central Texas.

Marshall, a native son of Temple, TX, bravely stepped forward when his country needed him most and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII. Stationed in the Pacific Theater, he fought the ferocity of the Japanese head on. At Iwo Jima, the casualties of his company were the severest of the entire campaign. Out of 250 Marines, Marshall was one of the lucky few to survive.

This proud Marine is also a committed citizen. Marshall returned to Temple and began the next chapter of his life of extraordinary service. A member of numerous councils and boards, he later became a City Councilman and a two-term Mayor. Marshall was President of the Temple Chamber of Commerce, was

commissioned a Kentucky Colonel, and was awarded Temple Citizen of the Year honors in 1992. He remains a respected leader who's made a real and positive impact on his community.

Ronald Reagan once said, "Some people live an entire lifetime wondering if they've made a difference in the world, Marines don't have that problem." Keifer Marshall is a local treasure and a fitting recipient of the Drayton and Elizabeth McClain Community Achievement Award. I join all who celebrate his selfless service to his nation and his hometown.

HONORING GEORGE PHIL WRIGHT

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Phil Wright of Rolla, Missouri for his years of exemplary service to his country through the United States Air Force. Mr. Wright's career as meteorological technician first began when he entered the Air Force as a weather apprentice in 1964. His active military service includes assignments in Illinois, Missouri, South Carolina and Turkey. Mr. Wright was a distinguished airman earning several awards including the Air Force Good Conduct Medal and Air Force Expert Marksman Ribbon. He also completed the Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership School at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

After ten years of active military service, Staff Sergeant Wright separated from the Air Force and was hired as a civil service weather observer at McEntire Air Force National Guard Base, South Carolina. He was later promoted to his most current position at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. At Fort Leonard he manages three weather technicians and provides weather support to 4th MEB, 1st of the 106th Air Assault Company, U.S. Army Engineer School, Military Police School, and the U.S. Army CBRN School. Mr. Wright has earned many awards and accolades during his time serving as a weather observer. On May 15, 2014 Mr. Wright will have completed 50 years of service to the United States Air Force Service. It is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

TO RECOGNIZE JACK CORY FOR HIS WORK WITH THE FLORIDA ALLIANCE OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jack Cory for his work with the Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs.

Boys & Girls Club organizations located across Florida serve over 161,000 youths between the ages of 6 and 18 annually.

Since 2006, Jack has represented the Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs—fighting to secure funding for over 40 member organizations.

This funding is vital for the Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Club's mission to help young people; especially those who need us most to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible adults.

By encouraging civic involvement at a young age, Jack has also empowered entire generations of young Floridians remain active in their respective communities for years to come.

Again, I rise to recognize Jack Cory for his achievements, and his hard work and dedication to the Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY OPTIONS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Community Options of New Jersey, as they celebrate their 25th anniversary this year.

Founded in 1989, Community Options, Inc. was established around the belief that all people should have the freedom to experience the highest degree of self-determination. The nonprofit is built around that philosophy and provides housing and support services, and advocates on behalf of people with disabilities.

Originating in New Jersey, Community Options has expanded its services across multiple states to support people with mental retardation, autism, physical disabilities, traumatic brain injury and dual diagnoses. Recognizing that people with the most severe disabilities require environments and support that are tailored to very specific needs, Community Options works with state and county based authorities to facilitate community placement and work opportunities that encourage individual choice and flexibility.

Community Options is the sixth-largest nonprofit organization in New Jersey, and has developed a number of partnerships with Non-Governmental Organizations in countries across the world. Providing advocacy assistance to empower people with disabilities, Community Options believes that all people, regardless of disability level, should live and work in the community with dignity, choice and self-determination.

I have seen firsthand how their facilities in Wayne and Morristown work to create the best possible environment for persons with disabilities. This includes 24-hour residential services, supported employment to match people with disabilities for competitive jobs, entrepreneurial businesses, as well as programs supporting persons with very significant medical needs.

The mission and work of Community Options has made the nonprofit an important asset to New Jersey. Their continued dedication to support thousands of families, and champion the rights of persons with disabilities, is to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Community Options, Inc. of New Jersey as they celebrate their 25th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall 50 on final passage of H.R. 3694, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Deliver Act, my vote was incorrectly recorded as "yes." I intended to vote "no."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 12

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) reauthorization, focusing on the economic importance of maintaining Federal investments in our transportation infrastructure.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine extreme weather events, focusing on the costs of not being prepared.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight to examine the report of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board on Reforms to the Section 215 telephone records program and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

SD-226

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine bipartisan support for improving United States elections, focusing on an overview from the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.

SR-301

Special Committee on Aging

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold a joint hearing to examine the challenges and advantages of senior entrepreneurship.

SD-562

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas Hicks, of Virginia, and Myrna Perez, of Texas, both to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission.

SR-301

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Maria Contreras-Sweet, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

SR-428

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Energy

To hold an oversight hearing to examine lessons for Federal policy from state efficiency and renewable programs.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine fisheries treaties and Port State Measures Agreements.

SD-419

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Indian Law and Order Commission Report, focusing on a roadmap for making Native America safer.

SD-628

FEBRUARY 13

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert O. Work, to be Deputy Secretary, and Michael J. McCord, of Ohio, to be Under Secretary (Comptroller), both of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, both of the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine how a fair minimum wage will help working families succeed.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the intelligence community, focusing on keeping watch over its contractor workforce.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, S. 149, to provide effective criminal prosecutions for certain identity thefts, and the nominations of Steven Paul Logan, John Joseph Tuchi,

Diane J. Humetewa, Rosemary Marquez, Douglas L. Rayes, and James Alan Soto, all to be a United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress.

SD-538

11:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Syria spill-over, focusing on the growing threat of terrorism and sectarianism in the Middle East.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph William Westphal, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, and Mark Gilbert, of Florida, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine enhancing our rail safety, focusing on current challenges for passenger and freight rail.

SR-253

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John P. Carlin, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD-138

FEBRUARY 25

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christine E. Wormuth, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Policy, Brian P. McKeon, of New York, to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, David B. Shear, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, and Eric Rosenbach, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

MARCH 5

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year

2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH-216

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

MARCH 11

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To hold closed hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SR-222

MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

APRIL 3

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

APRIL 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-106